

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MEXICO 08965 132353Z

12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

----- 000086

R 132305Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6137

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 8965

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MX

SUBJ: ELECTION RETURNS

REF: MEXICO 8640

1. WITH ELECTION RETURNS STILL INCOMPLETE (LATEST WORD BEING OFFICIAL RESULTS WILL BE AVAILABLE JULY 18), IT APPEARS THAT THE RULING INSTITUTIONAL REVOLUTIONARY (PRI) IS CON-
CEDING ONLY ONE DEFEAT IN 194 FEDERAL DEPUTY ELECTIONS AND 64 SENATORIAL RACES. THE ONE SETABCK IS IN NUEVO LAREDO, WHERE THE AUTHENTIC PARTY OF THE REVOLUTION, PARM, HAS DE-
FEATED THE PRI FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT TIME. PARM IS ALSO CLAIMING VICTORY IN TAMPICO, TAMAULIPAS, AND THE PRI MAY WELL CONCEDE THAT ELECTION TOO. THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL COM-
MISSION HAS NOT GIVEN FINAL RESULTS IN THAT RACE.

2. HOPES OF THE PARTY OF NATIONAL ACTION (PAN), THE STRONGEST OF THE THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES, TO BUILD UPON ITS IMPRESSIVE SHOWING IN 1973 MID-TERM ELECTIONS, APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DASHED. PAN DID NOT DEFEAT A SINGLE PRI OPPONENT AND IS LOSING BY BETWEEN 2 AND 3 TO 1 MARGINS EVEN IN THE FOUR DIS-
TRICTS IT WON IN 1973. IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT WHERE IT WON 43 PERCENT OF TOTAL VALID BALLOTS CAST IN 1973, IT HAS WON SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 25 PERCENT OF VALID BALLOTS IN JULY 4 ELECTIONS. THE OPPOSITION POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY WON 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MEXICO 08965 132353Z

VALID BALLOTS IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, THE PARM 3 PERCENT.

3. PRESIDENT-ELECT JOSE LOPEZ PORTILLO'S TOTAL IS CREEPING TOWARDS THE SIXTEEN MILLION MARK, WITH MANY RURAL DISTRICTS YET TO REPORT. THAT NUMBER OF VOTES WOULD REPRESENT 61 PERCENT OF ALL REGISTERED VOTERS. SINCE JLP WAS NOMINATED BY THE PRI, PPS, AND THE PARN, VOTERS HAD THE CHOICE OF VOTING FOR HIM BY SUPPORTING ANY ONE OF THE THREE PARTIES. BUT ACCORDING TO THE RETURNS REPORTED IN ONE OF THE 27 DISTRICTS IN MEXICO CITY, 24 THOUSAND VOTERS (13 PERCENT) VOTED FOR HIM BY WRITING IN HIS NAME WITHOUT MARKING ANY ONE OF THE THREE PARTIES. WHETHER THIS OCCURRED IN OTHER DISTRICTS IS NOT YET KNOWN, BUT IT SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY THAT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VOTERS THERE WISHED TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR JLP WITHOUT ENDORSING ANY OF THOSE THREE PARTIES.

4. STATISTICS ON TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS, ANNULLED BALLOTS, AND BALLOTS CAST FOR UNREGISTERED CANDIDATES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED FOR ONLY TWO OF MEXICO'S 194 DISTRICTS, SO ANALYSIS OF THE MORE INTERESTING QUESTION, ABSTENTION AND PROTEST VOTES AGAINST THE SYSTEM (ANNULLED BALLOTS), IS POSSIBLE IN ONLY THOSE TWO DISTRICTS. THOSE TWO DISTRICTS (BOTH IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, WHERE ABSTENTION IS USUALLY HIGH) SHOW 44 PERCENT AND 37 PERCENT OF TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS ABSTAINING FROM VOTING. OF THOSE WHO DID VOTE, 14 PERCENT ANNULLED THEIR BALLOTS (PROBABLY DELIBERATELY). COMBINING THE VOTE OF THE THREE OPPOSITION PARTIES, THE VOTE FOR UNREGISTERED CANDIDATES, AND THE DELIBERATELY ANNULLED BALLOTS, THE RESULTING ANTI-PRI VOTE WAS 43 PERCENT IN THE FEDERAL DEPUTY ELECTIONS IN THOSE TWO DISTRICTS. BUT IN 1973 THE SIMILARLY CALCULATED ANTI-PRI VOTE WAS OVER 50 PERCENT IN THE FEDERAL DISTRICT AS A WHOLE.

5. COMMENT: NOT REFLECTED IN THE ABOVE STATISTICS IS THE FRAUD FACTOR. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE AS USUAL COMPLAINING THAT THE WHOLE HOST OF FRAUDULENT PRACTICES WAS COMMITTED: CHANGING LOCATION OF BALLOT BOXES AT LAST MINUTE, LEAVING POLLS OPEN PAST CLOSING HOUR, REGISTERING VOTERS BY ELECTION DAY, ISSUING DUPLICATE CREDENTIALS ON ELECTION DAY, ROBBING BALLOT BOXES, INTIMIDATING OPPOSITION VOTERS, REFUSING TO ADMIT MONITORS OF OPPOSITION PARTY MEMBERS TO POLLING BOOTHS, AND MULTIPLE VOTING. A MEXICAN POLITICAL SCIENTIST TOLD AN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MEXICO 08965 132353Z

EMBOFF THAT HE BELIEVES VOTING STATISTICS HAVE "NO SIGNIFICANCE WHATSOEVER". THIS MAY BE A LITTLE OVERSTATED, BUT THE FRAUD FACTOR IS PROBABLY CONSIDERABLE AND WORSE, UNKNOWN, EVEN TO THE PRI AND GOM. BUT IN GENERAL TERMS IT APPEARS THAT THE PRI DID SUCCEED IN GETTING OUT A LARGE VOTE (IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE AT LEAST) DESPITE THE LACK OF A REGISTERED OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE AND THAT LOPEZ PORTILLO'S PERSONAL APPEAL WAS A FACTOR IN THE

LARGE VOTE.

6. MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCM) HAS CLAIMED THAT ITS
UNREGISTERED CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT, VALENTIN CAMPA,
RECEIVED OVER 1.6 MILLION WRITE-IN VOTES. NEEDLESS TO
SAY, PCM CLAIM IS NOT SUBSTANTIATED BY RESULTS SO
FAR ANNOUNCED, WHICH TEND TO LUMP ALL WRITE-INS TOGETHER
AND TO MIX THEM WITH ANNULLED BALLOTS. HOWEVER, WE ARE
TOLD BY SOURCE CLOSE TO PCM LEADERSHIP THAT PARTY
LEADERS ARE TAKING GREAT SATISFACTION FROM CAMPA VOTE.
SOURCE STATES PCM UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT IT COMMANDS
NEARLY THIS MANY ADHERENTS AND RECOGNIZES THAT MOST VOTES
FOR CAMPA WERE REALLY PROTEST AGAINST PRI-DOMINATED
SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THEY REGARD THESE VOTERS AS
A DISSIDENT MASS RIPE FOR MOBILIZATION AGAINST
GOM IN THE FUTURE.
JOVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO08965
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760270-0747
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760765/aaaacenw.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 8640
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION RETURNS
TAGS: PINT, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006